

HRLP 1/22/2010 MTG – ARTHUR REPORT

P&R trail activity:

Dangerous trees were cut on the Rail Trails and leaf blowing was accomplished on the Rockville spur. The drawing plan for the HRLP trailhead at the WTP was updated for submission of FEMA Certification. The Hockanum seating bench at the vista for the dam ruins on the Mansions property was rebuilt. The vista was improved and is quite spectacular. A new bridge was built over a feeder stream to allow a riverside trail at the Mansions. A new boardwalk was built at the beginning of the relocated yellow trail at Valley Falls. An old bridge over a feeder stream on the red trail at Valley Falls was cut up for removal. The GIS shapefile for Vernon trails was updated for the coming revision to the Vernon POCD.

Hockanum Watershed:

The November meeting was cancelled, and I was unable to attend the December mtg. I did submit a report for the Vernon Nov and Dec activities:

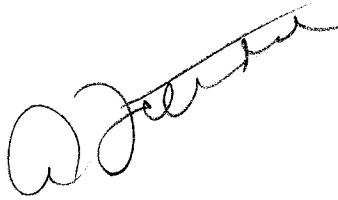
HRLP trails: I summarized the trail activities regarding Rail Trail tree cutting, Rt 74 trailhead progress, Colony Restaurant activity (including trail easement), Cliff Chapman approval for the remaining Mansions stone dust trail, construction of new bridge along river at Mansions, and VGV Braille trail activity, tri-fold trail map status, and receipt of service award.

I know that the Annual HWA January Art Show plans were discussed, and the recent success of the Ellington HRLP committee was also discussed. I expect there will be discussion at the January mtg regarding a reduction in the number of meetings scheduled for 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

George Arthur

*These should
be filed with
1-22-10
minutes*



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January 22, 2010 Hockanum River Linear Park Committee Meeting – Don Bellingham

Dart Hill North Park

- No significant activity.

Dart Hill South Park

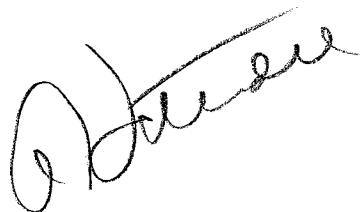
- No Significant Activity.

HRLP Trails

- Heavy goose population (conservative estimate of 600) wintering directly behind Vernon Gardens in the Hockanum River on Dart Hill North. Algae caused by droppings could be a problem. I reported to Ann who is getting Tom Ouellette involved.
- On January 19 I spotted a pair of Bald Eagles in a black walnut tree on the banks of the Hockanum near the geese.

Vernon Greenways Volunteers

- For the first time in four years there are no committees to formulate projects for the year. We will emphasize completion of the Braille trail and go from there.
- On-site trail maps have been prepared and are under review for Dart Hill North and South. On-site trail maps for VCMS have already been approved. Installation is scheduled for the spring. On-site trail maps will then be available for all of the, approximately, 20 miles of trails with which we are involved. Maps will be paid for and stocked by VGV.
- Assisted the Friends of Valley Falls by working with Vernon Parks and Rec to get the 17 Braille trail signs installed in December.
- In an effort to put the newly revamped Braille trail to use, last summer (through Laurie) we contacted the Ct Board of Ed and Services for the Blind to offer an outing for school age members of that organization. We offered to fund and orchestrate: a picnic cook out at the gazebo at Valley Falls, provide fishing poles and bait for fishing in the pond, the sand beach for swimming and access to the new Braille trail. Ginny and I took two teachers on a tour shortly thereafter. We hadn't heard back so I did a follow-up on January 4. In the process of composing the follow-up I discovered that one of the two had unexpectedly passed away in August. My follow-up went to the other teacher with condolences. I did not receive a response from her so did a second follow-up on January 15. I am still awaiting a response.



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